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Express Mail No. EU 652180026 US  
CASE A-30496B

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

ART UNIT: 1638

HEIFETZ ET AL.

EXAMINER: A. MEHTA

APPLICATION NO: 09/309,038

FILED: MAY 10, 1999

FOR: REGULATION OF GENE EXPRESSION

Box RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

NOV 29 2002

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated June 25, 2002, please enter the amendments and consider the remarks below. Submitted herewith are: 1) a Petition for an Extension of Time for two (2) months from September 25, 2002 to November 25, 2002 with the fee by credit card; 2) a Request for Continued Examination and 3 month suspension of prosecution with fee; 3) fee transmittal; 4) Credit Card Form; and 5) Certificate of Express Mail.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

C1  
1. (twice amended) A method for conferring resistance or tolerance to a furovirus, potyvirus, tospovirus or cucumovirus upon a plant cell comprising the step of: introducing into a plant cell a sense RNA fragment of a furovirus, potyvirus, tospovirus or cucumovirus genome or portion thereof and an antisense RNA fragment of said furovirus, potyvirus, tospovirus or cucumovirus genome or portion thereof, wherein said sense RNA fragment and said antisense RNA fragment form a double-stranded RNA molecule, and wherein the expression of said viral genome or portion thereof in said cell is reduced.

C2  
12. (twice amended) A method for conferring resistance or tolerance to a furovirus, potyvirus, tospovirus or cucumovirus upon a plant cell comprising the step of: introducing into a plant cell a first DNA sequence capable of expressing in said cell a sense RNA fragment of a furovirus, potyvirus, tospovirus or cucumovirus genome or portion thereof and a second DNA sequence capable of expressing in said cell an antisense RNA fragment of said furovirus, potyvirus or